

Overtime could bankrupt UPC

Julie Simon and Scott Zonder
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The SF State chapter of United Professors of California (UPC) faces possible bankruptcy if its business agent presses for payment of accumulated overtime, *Phoenix* has learned.

The overtime was incurred by Gordon Shadwick between 1974-76, when Ann Uthman was president. Uthman and Shadwick share the same address and telephone number in Pacifica.

It is not clear whether this overtime was authorized by Uthman. She said, "The business agent was never asked to account for his time."

However, according to Shadwick's contract, which Uthman signed in 1974, 1975, and May of 1976 as outgoing president, "Any overtime must be authorized in advance by the president or by the treasurer in the absence of the president."

A UPC source told *Phoenix*, "Shadwick wrote his own overtime — there were no controls, no way of knowing what hours he actually worked."

"Authorizations are relative — it's easy to make an authorization," the source said.

Phoenix was told that "\$13,000 is a conservative estimate" for Shadwick's overtime.

The union currently has more than 350 members. Their projected dues income for September 1976 to May 1977 is \$15,979.76. *Phoenix* was told the local has no substantial cash reserve, but does own an eight-room house on 19th

Avenue. The union could also arrange monthly payments for Shadwick if he pressed for cash payment.

"Shadwick might use the overtime as insurance if he was ever threatened with being fired," the UPC source said.

Shadwick is the sole paid employee of UPC, receiving 57 per cent of union dues in salary and benefits.

Uthman broke into tears when *Phoenix* attempted to question her about Shadwick's overtime.

"No one knew how much overtime Shadwick accumulated. We believe that the business agent accumulated overtime way beyond our understanding," said former treasurer John Kinch, who served under Uthman.

Kinch said, "Uthman is making no claim to having authorized overtime. She would be criminally culpable for inappropriate use of union funds if she did."

When *Phoenix* asked whether Uthman was aware she would be held responsible for incurring overtime debts if she produced authorization, the source said, "Uthman is emotionally blinded by her relationship with Shadwick ... she just isn't thinking of her own best interests."

Shadwick refused comment.

Robert Cherny, local UPC president since May, 1976, would not verify the figure of \$13,000. He said he had the overtime figure in his files but "could not show it to *Phoenix* at this time."

The allegations concerning excessive overtime began with a letter received by *Phoenix*. The author claimed to be a member of the UPC executive committee.

The letter reads in part that "corruption has sprung up during the past two

years in the local UPC," and that a large part of the current situation is due to "shoddy fiscal operations by Shadwick under Uthman's presidency."

From 1974-76, Shadwick worked part-time: 20, 30, and 35 hours per week as the membership increased. Anything more than those specified hours was considered overtime.

Both Cherny and Uthman said Shadwick submitted the list of overtime hours at Cherny's request and that Shadwick had not asked for cash payment.

However, Cherny said that if Shadwick could document overtime and produce authorization, he would get paid.

Phoenix was told, "If it came right down to it, Uthman would back up Shadwick with authorizations."

Uthman refused to comment on this.

Cherny said, "Gordon has taken overtime as paid summer vacation."

Kinch said it was his understanding that the figure of \$13,000 was in addition to summer vacations Shadwick had taken with pay.

"There must be some legal restraint on how much overtime can be accumulated and how much debt an employee can incur," Kinch said.

"We have never had a working budget," he said. "We did have quarterly financial statements and pretty much used past expenditures as a gauge. We need to have more control over our money ... Cherny is trying to tighten controls on the budget."

At a meeting Aug. 31, an ad-hoc budget committee made several recommendations to the UPC executive committee in an effort to gain control over the

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PHOENIX

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Ten pages

Favoritism charge made in Student Union office grants

Mark Janowicz

The "squeaky wheel" organizations of the Space Allocation Committee received preferential treatment in Student Union office space assignments, say two members of the Student Union Governing Board.

"The special interest groups sat down and divided up the building," said Deacon Butterworth of the Board. "Those on the Space Allocation Committee were one and the same with the groups that got office space."

Butterworth said most campus organizations were denied representation on the committee that assigned rooms in the Student Union.

Kathy Basconcello, chairwoman of the SAC, agreed: "The squeaky whee' on the SAC got the

largest offices in the Union. The five ethnic groups grabbed up the basement area, simply on the basis that they had single spaces last year."

Originally, a communal office was to be located in the basement level, for the use of those groups not represented on the committee.

Under pressure from some of the more influential organizations, the committee's criteria and proposals were shelved. A new committee was established; though disputed, their allocation of space was passed.

As a result, the area scheduled to be communal office space was moved next to the Orient Express. The Associated Students' copy center was scheduled to be in that space; there is temporarily no copy center for the use of any groups.

"The four PASU (Pan Afrikan Student Union)

members of the Student Union Governing Board forced the criteria and original proposal to be shelved," claimed Butterworth. The board is composed of eight members.

Michael Greenwood, representative of PASU and member of the Board, denied the charge: "The PASU members on the Board were interested in our own office space, but we were also very concerned about the allocation in general — we tried for fair and equal treatment."

"In effect, I had to represent both the PASU and the Governing Board," said Greenwood. "There came a point when I had to take in the views and interests of both groups in an equitable way."

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Bills threaten student loans

Judy Wines

New legislation, in the form of three bills, could make it illegal for students to file for bankruptcy on any loans taken out before Oct. 12, 1976, under the new Revised Guaranteed Loan Program.

Another bill, called the Higher Education Act has already been signed by President Ford. The bill, which will not go into effect until Oct. 12, 1977 will make it unlawful for any students to file for bankruptcy on new or previous loans.

In 1965, Congress enacted the current Federal Student Loan Program. Since that time, more than eight million students receiving loans have completed their college educations.

Proponents of the three bills contend that students are, in effect, getting free educations at taxpayers' expense simply by filing for bankruptcy after graduation.

John Slavicek, founder and president of the American Bankruptcy Council, said, "We get from three to five calls a day about the student loans. They want to know if they are still able to file bankruptcy. When people ask me why they might not be able to file for bankruptcy, I have no explanation except to say that the student bankruptcy rate went up about 13 times in the last couple of years."

A high rate of delinquency is another reason for the crack-down.

"The figure is up around 47 per cent," Slavicek said. "That's a very high figure. Now, the people who graduate are not to blame for that figure. It is legend in this office that oceanographers pump gas, Ph.Ds drive cabs, and other graduates are unemployed and living on welfare. They've sent out resumes. There is no work. There are no jobs. They can't pay anybody back."

The Revised Guaranteed Student Loan Program will make it illegal for students to file for bankruptcy for a period of five years after graduation. This will make them liable to legal claims and bill collectors throughout that period.

Slavicek called the proposed law "discriminatory."

"If they are going to try and pass that kind of law against students, they should also pass it against New York and corporations like Lockheed," he said.

Passage of any one of the three bills will produce a "double standard," according to Slavicek.

"Any time that the Congressmen or whatever start talking about cracking down against student loans, I have got to say it is a double standard. New York City has received close to 12 billion dollars in loans."

Continued on Page 6, Column 3

AS election codes changed

Mark Harden

This December's student elections are the best-kept secret on campus.

If previous elections are an indication, a maximum of 10 per cent of SF State's student body will show up at the polls in the Student Union lobby on Dec. 13-15.

At stake in this year's voting will be the Associated Students' executive offices-president, vice-president and treasurer-and several representative positions in the AS Legislature.

During the last general AS election in the spring of 1975, 2,010 students voted out of a total campus enrollment of roughly 23,000.

It is impossible to tell at present how many candidates will be running this year. Would-be AS officers won't start filing their candidacy petitions with the AS Elections Committee until Oct. 25.

Washington Post editor on campus

He puts scandals back in the news

Susan Bayard

Benjamin Bradlee, executive editor of the *Washington Post* and the man responsible for the editorial decisions that broke the Watergate scandal, spoke to an overflow crowd in the Student Union's Barbary Coast yesterday (Oct. 20).

More than 275 people attended the question and answer session, which was sponsored by *feed/back* magazine, the local journalism review, and Sigma Delta Chi (The Society of Professional Journalists).

Before opening the meeting to questions from the floor, Bradlee spoke briefly on investigative reporting, apropos of the *Post's* recent exposure of the Elizabeth Ray/Wayne Hays scandal.

Bradlee indicated that inherent in investigative reporting is a strong element of accident. "Our reporter Marian Clark was on a train to Washington with Elizabeth Ray and there was a

train wreck. During that eight hours, Ray spilled such stories ...

"Wayne Hays is such a revolving S.O.B.," Bradlee continued. "Reporters have been trying to get him for years. It took a train wreck to do it. And it's the most fun we've had in years." The second part of investigative reporting said Bradlee, is the endless, laborious hours of work.

"You dig a lot of dry wells before you even get to the right questions. And people lie—even good people. If you don't ask the right questions, you sure won't get the right answers."

Bradlee asked for questions from the audience. "Wind me up and I'll talk for a long time," he said.

The question-and-answer session lasted about an hour, ranging from Watergate to the CIA, Deep Throat to the Carter-Ford race, opinion polling to press freedom.

Asked about his personal relationship with John F. Kennedy and its effect on his reporting of

the Washington scene, Bradlee replied, "You do develop a relationship, and it colors what you're going to write. People will ask, 'Well, is he carrying Kennedy's coat this time or is he going his bail?' And it comes to the edge of the cliff—are you going to be a reporter or a friend?"

Bradlee was asked his feelings on the *Washington Star's* EAR column, which has been critical of Bradlee and the *Post's* gossip mongering stance. EAR has occasionally printed inflammatory allegations about Bradlee himself.

"EAR, EAR, Jesus, EAR..." Bradlee muttered.

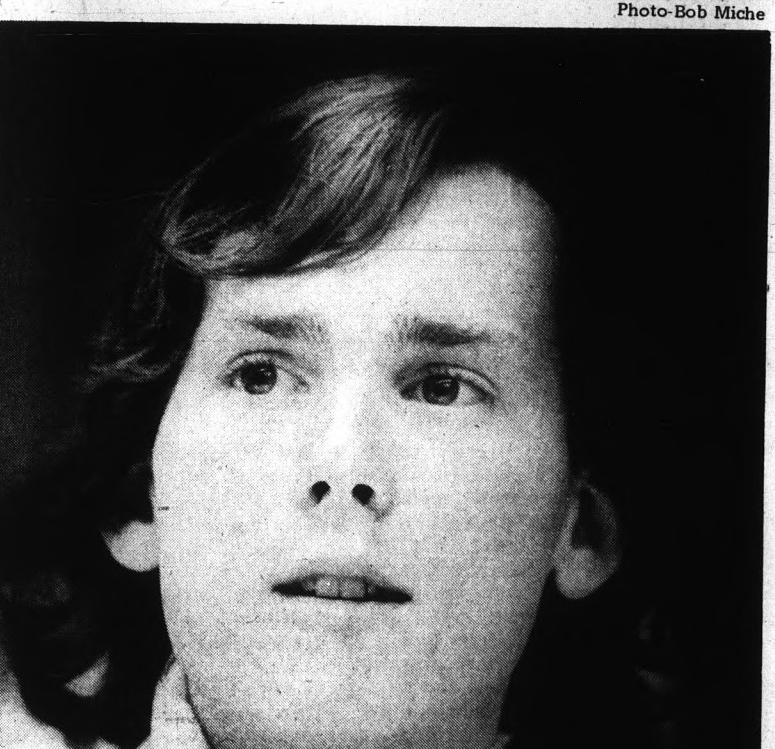
"Well, it's part of the new, notorious nature of journalists. It's the greatest anomaly of our times—who can hate the *Washington Post*? Katherine Graham (the *Post's* owner) put us on the map. We have joined the 'mini-reputes'—the Brinkleys, the Cronkites—as fair game. Americans have always loved gossip. First it was movie stars,

Continued on Page 3, Column 3

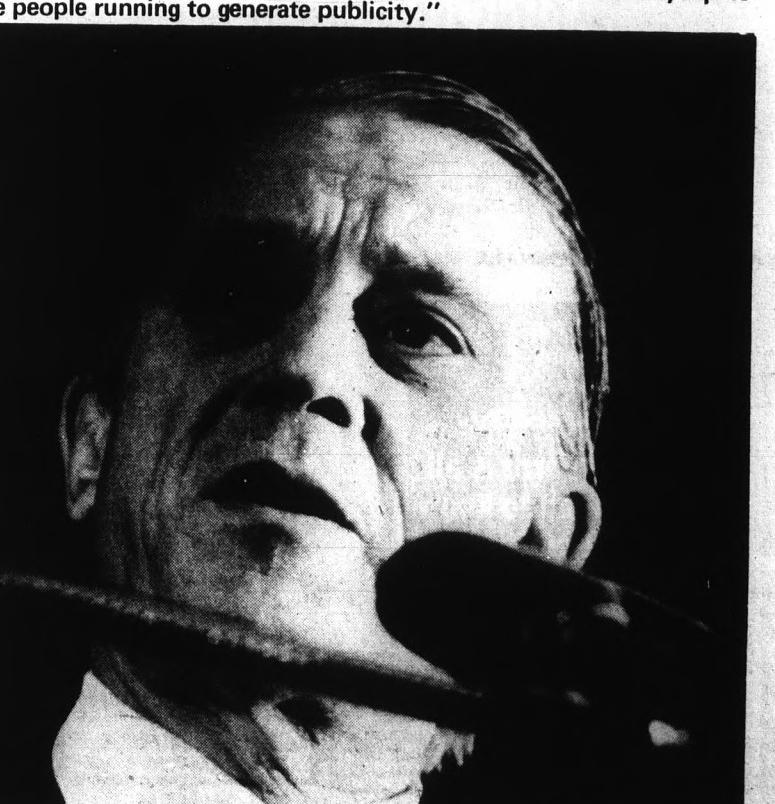
Tunney Profile: Page 3



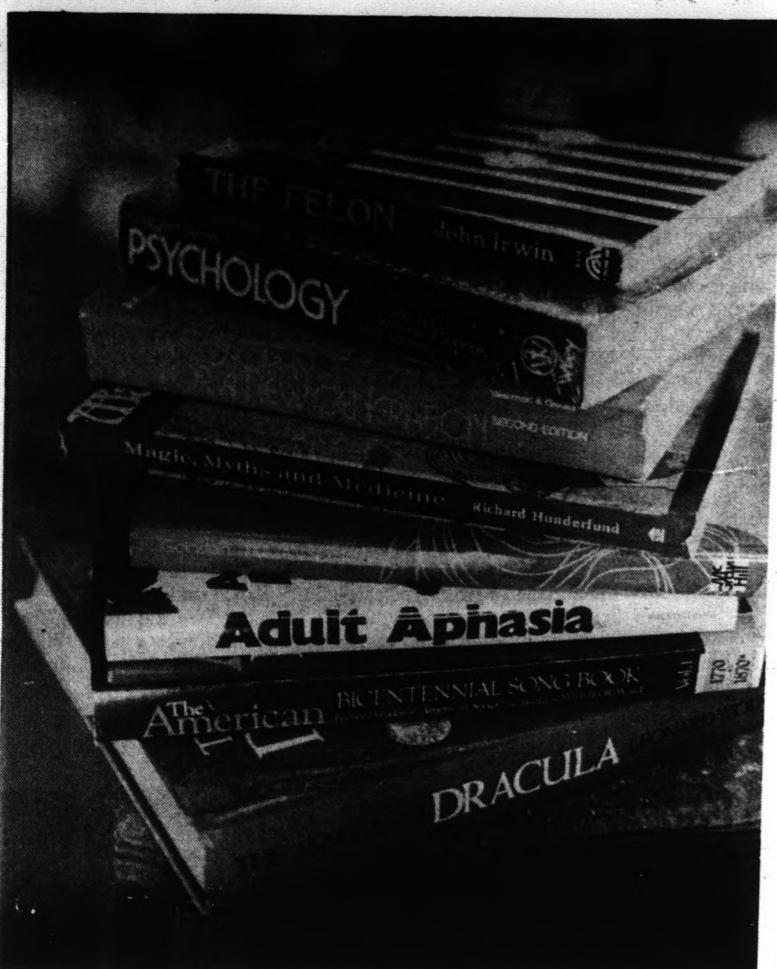
Photo-Bob Mische



AS Elections Committee chairman Timothy Fike: "It's really up to the people running to generate publicity."



Benjamin Bradlee: "If you don't ask the right questions, you sure won't get the right answers."



Available in the library, these books are some of the obscure writings of SF State professors.

Faculty authors find continuing challenge

Judy Wines

Some SF State professors are hard at work cranking out books that aren't about to make the best-seller list, and the authors are writing for love of their field rather than for money or fame.

Arthur Berger, associate professor of social science, has written several books about America's pop culture. The trouble is that nobody is reading them.

In the non-blockbuster *The Comic-Striped American*, Berger analyzes America's favorite comic strips. "I look at the adventure in them, the use of violence, and try to explain their social, psychological and ideological aspects. For example, Batman is a father-figure. And he's basically a jerk."

Other unknown books by Berger include *Pop Culture*, which doubles as a classroom text, and *The Evangelical Hamburger*, about the significance of McDonald's hamburgers. "I wrote that book," Berger said, "when McDonald's was just starting out 12 years ago and I said that they would take over the world."

His books have not earned him millions.

Creative Writing Professor Leonard Wolf has written eight books. None of them have taken the world by storm. One of them, *A Dream of Dracula*, got as far as the *New York Times* reviewing desk. Other books by Wolf have not fared so well.

I'm reaching a double audience.'

arrest that helped to inspire *Love Generation*. "I was involved in an alternative 'free' university called the Happening House. The house was a mixture of hip young people, people off the street, and those from the establishment.

"One day the students put on a dance, naked, and the police weren't sure who to arrest for it. So, they arrested the director. And that was me.

"The book," Wolf said, "tried to put that whole era into perspective. Everybody thought the world was going to change."

In an attempt to create an interesting freshman text for students, Wolf wrote another book with the fetching title of *A Dream of Dracula*. Wolf did not set the world afire with this book, either. In fact, the book is not even

about Dracula.

"The book is an essay on the state of America in the 1970s. The conclusion is a very grim one. We come very close to being vampires."

Monsters, a third obscure book Wolf wrote, really is about monsters. "It's brief summaries of the careers of monsters," Wolf said. "It is for young people, teenagers. It has the Medusa, the Unicorn, and monsters like that."

Wolf makes about \$1,000 a year from his book sales.

In order to produce such non-lucrative books, Wolf stays up late and gets little sleep. "I never shortchange my students or my writing," he said.

"I like to write and teach. The consolation is, with all the pressure, I'm reaching a double audience."

After ten years of research, Harry Thiers, a professor of biology, has completed a book called *Mushrooms in California*. Thiers' on-campus office is accented by drawings, paintings, and ceramics of mushrooms. Textbooks on his desk are held in place by split mushroom bookends.

Thiers traveled throughout California's coastal areas to collect the different types of mushrooms.

Bookstore employees took a five per cent pay reduction to make things operate. Some took an even larger pay reduction.

Sanderson said the location and general layout of the bookstore encourages would-be thieves.

"We're in a larger area, and that makes it easier to steal," he said, adding,

California Mushrooms is the kind

Lack of advising causes graduation delays

Lenny Giteck

Many seniors whose degree applications are rejected might have graduated if they had seen their faculty advisors, according to Florence Schwartz, coordinator of Undergraduate Advising at SF State.

Schwartz says at least 10 per cent of students who apply for their bachelor's degrees are turned down. More than half are denied graduation because they haven't taken required courses, or have the wrong combination of units.

"Many students think they're all set

to graduate," says Schwartz, "only to discover that they've missed one or two required courses. If they'd been meeting with their advisors all along that probably wouldn't have happened."

Students often fail to consult with their advisors because they believe all the necessary registration information is contained in the university catalogue and schedule of classes.

"They should realize," Schwartz says, "that they are making a major commitment in planning their course of studies. It's like signing an important contract. You wouldn't do

that without talking it over with someone first. The same should hold true for an academic program."

Professor Alvin Fine, of the Humanities Department, believes the CAR system — Computer Assisted Registration — has discouraged students from seeing their advisors.

Fine says, "Before CAR we had two days set aside for advising just prior to registration. Now the one advising day is toward the end of the previous semester, when most students are busy with finals and research projects.

"With CAR, the entire registration process can take place through the mail. This makes the advisor seem very remote. Students see no reason to meet with advisors."

Fine is concerned that students, failing to meet with their advisors, are missing an important contact.

"In the Humanities Department,"

he says, "we've always felt that advising is an essential part of the educational process. Through advising, students can choose courses intelligently. They can find a direction to their studies. It's the best opportunity to personalize the academic experience."

According to Schwartz, attitudes towards advising vary widely among departments.

"Some departments," she says, "make every effort to encourage their students to see an advisor. Others don't. So it's pretty much left up to the individual student."

Schwartz, who is responsible for informing students about the availability and importance of advising, says, "There's really only so much we can do. We can't force students to see their advisors. It's the old story, 'You can lead a horse to water...'"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Student Activities Office is currently accepting applications for orientation volunteers. Those students selected will receive preregistration for the Spring 1977 semester. Applications are available in the Activities Office through Friday, October 22, 5 p.m.

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Faculty decries text cuts

Kenneth Jost

A SF State professor has suggested a plan to end the textbook ordering problems for which the bookstore has been under attack by some faculty members.

Eugene Grundt, associate professor of English, said he has had difficulties getting his textbook requisitions treated fairly.

"I would like to see a compromise," Grundt said. "There should be some way of working with the CAR data prior to the opening of the semester to confirm class enrollments."

"If an instructor has ordered 50 copies of a book and CAR shows that he will only have 30 students, then cutting an order would be justified. But if CAR showed that the class would have 50 students, then they wouldn't need to cut the order."

Dr. Richard Wiseman, professor of German and Comparative Literature, said the structure and quality of his classes has been impaired due to cuts in his textbook requisitions.

"I asked for 45 copies of *The Basic Writings of C.G. Jung*, Wiseman said. "The order was cut to 25 copies, and so I have 15 students that can't get texts. When something like this happens



The bookstore: "...it throws the whole class out of whack and can destroy the logical teaching sequence."

pens it throws the whole class out of whack and can destroy the logical teaching sequence."

Beth Kristy, textbook department manager, said textbook ordering is done on a basis of past sales, past class enrollments and "instructor requisitions."

"The English Department, for example, had either an over-enrollment or students just bought more

books this semester, because we have had some problems," Kristy said. "But I know of no other campus bookstore that orders any other way. How else could we order?"

Last year the bookstore spent between \$7,000 and \$10,000 on return freight for unsold books, Kristy said.

"We pay freight both in and out on textbooks, and right now the sub-

ject is full of books to be returned," she said.

Dolora Cunningham, professor of English, has also had her orders cut. She said requisitions she made have been cut in half.

"I ordered six copies of *Select Bibliographical Guides to Shakespeare*, knowing that in order to have a seminar, six students had to be enrolled," she said. "The bookstore randomly cut the order to four copies, and two students have had a rough time finding books."

Cunningham also said the order for her expository writing class textbook, *The Complete Stylist and Handbook*, was cut in half.

"It sure makes teaching difficult when students can't buy the proper textbooks," she said.

Kristy said she would like to see and talk to instructors to try and straighten problems out.

"We need better communication between the instructors and ourselves," she said. "We are trying to improve ordering methods."

"Recently we've put in a Telex to speed up orders, and for the second semester we're ordering from bookstores on other campuses."

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Jeri Pupos



Franciscan Shops manager Ivan Sanderson: "We're in a larger area, and that makes it easier to steal."

Bookstore robbed of profit

Marlon Villa

Student shoplifters cost the campus bookstore more than \$50,000 last year, according to Franciscan Shops

ing that the smaller confines of the old bookstore made security easier.

Sanderson and SF State Vice-President Norman Heap have forwarded several anti-theft and money-saving proposals to President Romberg.

At present, Heap estimates 95 per cent of the textbooks are new; five per cent are used. Used books are more profitable to sell because they go for a higher markup. Sanderson said textbooks made up 66 per cent of the bookstore's sales. A break-even percentage would be 60 per cent new texts, 40 per cent used.

Sanderson said the bookstore is trying to sell more items with a larger profit margin. Last year, for example, supplies netted \$37,590 and general interest books made \$5,673.

Rent "freezing" is another money-saving alternative. According to Sanderson, the bookstore pays \$55,700 rent annually to the student union. He wants the rent frozen at that figure for at least three years.

Heap cited the last alternative if all else failed: the administration would have an outside company take over if the bookstore closed down.

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Tunney lambastes Hayakawa

Marshall Krantz

Senator John V. Tunney yesterday accused his Republican opponent, S.I. Hayakawa, of using SF State as "propaganda fodder" in his race for the U.S. Senate.

Referring to Hayakawa's speech here last month and the heckling he received, Tunney told a packed crowd at the Student Union's Barbary Coast that the former SF State president "should step out of the shadow of this campus and stand on the issues rather than behind the boos of a few students."

"He wanted to get booed in hopes he could resurrect memories of his standing up against students," said Tunney, adding that this "calculated ploy" enables Hayakawa "to continue to twirl his tam-o'-shanter and evade tough questions with jokes, profanity, or a shrug."

"He wants to rekindle recollections of the days of confrontation and turmoil on campus, and to, once again, stand tall on that flatbed truck amid the chanting and the helmeted police."

"Dr. Hayakawa cannot use students to still for his election any more than he can call in the riot squad to protect his outmoded ideas."

Tunney said Hayakawa, as president of SF State, was "inept and inattentive," and that he "encouraged

needless arrests" of students and instructors during the strike.

In reference to a memorandum, dated Feb. 17, 1969, and bearing Hayakawa's signature, directing campus office heads not to hire persons arrested the previous Jan. 23, Tunney said the "blacklist" constitutes a violation of basic civil liberties and is constitutionally obscene.

(Hayakawa has been charged with using the list to suspend students and fire instructors. He maintains the order was rescinded the day after it was

issued.) Tunney said he does not believe a grand jury investigation is necessary to find out if the list was implemented; the current lawsuit against Hayakawa is sufficient.

As regards \$500,000 in funds unaccounted-for during Hayakawa's administration, Tunney said he did not want to accuse Hayakawa of what essentially would be a criminal offense because he has not been charged by law enforcement officials.

Tunney said that any charges he

might make against Hayakawa concerning the missing money he, personally, would consider "irresponsible."

"I despise scapegoating," he said. "I despise using the tar brush to paint people up and accuse them of things not proven."

Continuing his lambast of Hayakawa, Tunney charged him with political opportunism and waffling on issues.

"Dr. Hayakawa has repeatedly displayed the classic trademark of the political opportunist — a willingness to

Tunney said that he supports the United Farmworkers Initiative (Proposition 14), while quoting Hayakawa as saying that those who support the initiative are "doped on Cesar Chavez propaganda."

Tunney said that he favors breaking up the major oil companies, while Hayakawa has called divestiture legislation "economic nonsense."

He accused Hayakawa of being influenced by oil company campaign contributions, saying that oil interests have been "more than generous" to Hayakawa.

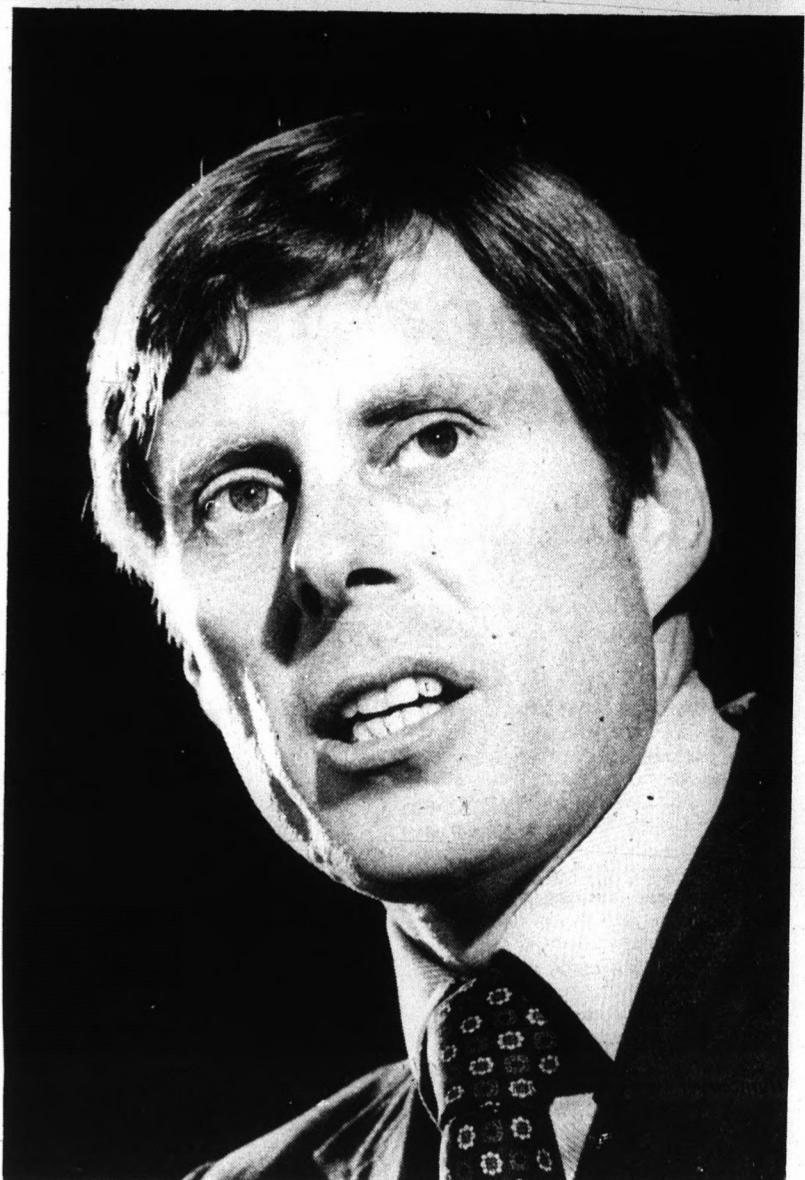
Tunney said that, in contrast to Hayakawa, his record is "an open book, subject to the searching scrutiny of all Californians."

Tunney said he favors "unconditional amnesty" for draft evaders, full employment, national health insurance, and payment for abortions by the federal medical program.

Pointing to his work in the Senate, Tunney said he led the fight to cut off funds for possible American troop involvement in the Angolan civil war and authored a bill to fund development of an alternative to the internal combustion engine.

He also said that more than 40 of his bills, twice that of any other freshman senator, have been passed; and that his 90 per cent attendance record is one of the best in the Senate.

After his speech, Tunney said that last week he met for two hours with his Democratic primary opponent, Tom Hayden, and they discussed the senatorial campaign.



Photos-Martin Jeong

PROFILE

issued.)

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On the issue of gun control, Tunney quoted Hayakawa as telling a Redwood City audience on May 13 that he favored the "registration of all firearms to reduce crime."

Less than 48 hours later, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Hayakawa opposed any form of gun-control because he had "studied further," according to Tunney.

He must have packed a lot of studying into the time between his appearance in Redwood City and his conversation with the *Times* reporter," said Tunney.

Continually contrasting Hayakawa's views with his own views,

Funding cuts proposed for special-interest groups

Jeri Pupos

A proposal to end Associated Student funding of all "special interest groups" will be brought before the AS Legislature next Wednesday.

"I'm tired of being ripped off as a student," said representative-at-large Mirell Lang, author of the proposal. "If a group is not open to everyone on campus, don't fund it. Period."

Lang said he wants proof of productivity from each organization and program that requests funding. He wants specifications of what will be done with the money. He said he wants proof that each group's activities will "benefit" all students.

The purpose of the proposal, Lang said, is to legitimize AS funding to the campus community.

"The AS is a corporation," he said. "Money comes from the student body, but students are not getting any returns."

"You try to get in the Women's Center—try and get in PASU. Each group is fulfilling their own needs. We are not a community because everyone is out only for themselves."

Pat O'Hara, sophomore representative, said Lang's proposal was vague, but agreed that students weren't getting as much out of the AS as they were putting into it. He said in the recent past students' money has not been allocated in the best ways possible.

Romberg's trip

SF State President Paul F. Romberg will be going on a tour of Israel with university presidents from other states from Oct. 25 to Nov. 5. He was invited by the Israeli government to speak about the American education system.

Douglas Garrity, SF State provost, will be in charge while Romberg is gone.

Romberg will return to SF State Nov. 8.

Bradlee answers varied questions

Continued from Page 1

now it's Woodstein."

"Who is Deep Throat?" someone asked.

"I don't answer any questions about Deep Throat or who it is," Bradlee snapped.

On the question of whether the press protected Kennedy—and other presidents—from unfavorable publicity, Bradlee replied, "There are a number of examples of the press protecting both (Kennedy and Nixon) from a simple four-letter word. But Nixon couldn't say it even if he had a mouthful of it. (He meant that Nixon was incapable of being publicly profane.)

"Look at Butz; the rules have changed. No candidate today could have gotten away with making plainly bigoted remarks. The counter-culture changed the rules."

On shield laws for reporters, Bradlee took a minority position.

"No, I don't believe in shield laws. They are almost unconstitutional. By specifying certain privileges, you withhold some. The shield law is like the First Amendment. The Constitution says that Congress shall make no law..."

"I'm lucky. Katherine Graham will put her money where my mouth is."

55 year-old Ben Bradlee has the reputation of a strongman who will take "no shit from nobody."

"He has the face of an international jewel thief," says the *Wall Street Journal*.

Born in Massachusetts in 1921—his father was a banker, his uncle, Frank Crowninshield, edited *Vanity Fair*—Bradlee graduated from Harvard in 1943.

He immediately got married and joined the navy.

He says his interest in journalism springs from his wartime experience in the South Pacific, as does his marine sergeant demeanor.

After World War II he founded a newspaper designed to rival the iconoclastic Manchester (New Hampshire) *Union Leader*. Two years later William Loeb, the *Union Leader*'s owner, bought Bradlee's financially floundering paper. Bradlee was fired.

He went to the *Washington Post* as a police reporter on the city beat, where he became "an indefatigable reporter. I busted my ass."

In 1951 he tired of the police beat and joined the American Embassy in Paris, where he remained until 1954.

At that time, Bradlee was hired by *Newsweek* as Paris bureau chief. He had already gained a reputation as a reporter who went all-out for a scoop, and in fact was nearly ejected from France

by the French government for writing about Algerian revolutionaries.

Bradlee returned to Washington, D.C., in 1957 as a reporter for *Newsweek*'s Washington bureau, and began to make the political connections—including those with John F. Kennedy—that were vital to reporting the political scene.

Washington Post owner Philip Graham bought *Newsweek* in 1961 with the intention of building the weekly into a competitor with *Time*. Bradlee was elevated to senior editor and bureau chief.

During this era John F. Kennedy and Ben Bradlee were not only neighbors, but intimate friends. Bradlee's book *Conversations With Kennedy* is an outgrowth of the alliance.

In 1965 he went to the *Washington Post* as assistant managing editor. Four months later he was made managing editor, and in 1968 he assumed executive editorship. He has held the post since then.

Amidst an atmosphere of "locker-room macho," Bradlee surrounded himself with news talent and proceeded to build the *Post* into a virtual investigative posse.

He is divorced from his second wife and lives with Sally Quinn, *Washington Post* STYLE section writer.

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Legislators rated on voting record

Tom Ballantyne

San Francisco's state legislators get high marks for their voting records on student-related issues, according to a survey released by student lobbyist Scott Plotkin.

The survey showed how each member of the Assembly and Senate voted on issues regarded as important "to the nearly 300,000 students in the state university and colleges."

Votes cast for 32 selected bills in the Assembly and 29 in the Senate from the 1975-76 regular session were used in compiling the survey.

The bills included Willie Brown's (D-San Francisco) resolution to save Gatorville until replacement low-cost housing could be built, reorganization of state student loan programs, appointment of a student member to the Board of Trustees, sale of beer on campus, and control over student organizations' budgets.

The legislators were rated on their attendance, favorable votes and a

combined percentage of favorable votes and attendance.

State Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco) introduced one of the bills included in the survey. The bill, SB 534, provided for one student appointed by the governor to be added to the Board of Trustees as a voting member.

Marks' overall rating in the tally was 93 per cent.

San Francisco's state assemblymen voted favorably on the bills although none got a 100 per cent rating because of attendance.

Assembly speaker Leo McCarthy (D-San Francisco) scored an overall 96 per cent while John Francis Foran got 62 per cent.

In nearby districts, freshman Assemblyman Michael Womum (D-Corte Madera) rated 100 per cent across the board while John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose) got 96 per cent.

Plotkin singled out State Senator Arlen Gregorio (D-San Mateo) for his

record. Gregorio was the only senator to get a 100 per cent rating.

John J. Foran (D-San Francisco) while still an assemblyman ran for and won the Senate seat vacated by George Moscone in the June, 1976, primary.

Foran hung onto his Assembly seat long enough to vote on several key issues—among them, the farm labor board appropriation and the 1976-77 budget.

He resigned his Assembly seat last July to move to the State Senate. His 16th Assembly District seat, now vacant, will be filled after this November's election.

Foran did not vote on SB 475 because he had moved over to the Senate by the time the bill came up for a vote in the Assembly.

Sen. Milton Marks (R-San Francisco) and Sen. Arlen Gregorio (D-San Mateo) are listed as "not voting" for AB 3039 because that bill did not come up for a vote in the Senate.

KEY							
NV = NOT VOTING							
Student lobby recommendation	Michael Womum (D-Corte Madera)	Milton Marks (R-San Francisco)	Willie Brown (D-San Francisco)	John Foran (D-San Francisco)	John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose)	Arlen Gregorio (D-San Mateo)	Leo McCarthy (D-San Francisco)
AB 3039 Should CSUC presidents' power over student organizations' budgets be limited?	YES	YES	NV	YES	NV	YES	NV
ACR 12 Should Gatorville be saved until replacement low-cost student housing can be built?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
AB 1558 Should equal funding go to athletic programs for both men and women "as nearly as practicable"?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
AB 1031 Should student loan programs be streamlined to require a single application form with more loans available?	YES	YES	YES	YES	NV	YES	YES
AB 2932 Should the student member of the Board of Trustees have a two-year term?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
SB 475 Should the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus be prohibited?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NV	NO	NV
AB 3790 Should an additional \$500,000 be appropriated for campus child care centers?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

AS manager re-appointed by unanimous board vote

Alan Nation

The Associated Students has renewed General Manager Jose Rodrigues' contract for 1976-77 by a unanimous board vote. Rodrigues felt that anything less than a unanimous vote would have given him reservations about staying in the \$16,500 post.

He describes his position as "damned if you do and damned if you don't." He said he has to field pressure from the AS, his employer, and school officials, and that the officials do not understand the kind of pressure he gets from the AS.

Rodrigues reflected on his past two years as General Manager, and thought the AS's move into the Student Union was one of the best things that happened to the association. "The atmosphere is much better and there is definitely an increase in involvement among the students with AS affairs," he said.

"The old AS location out towards the parking area was definitely a negative aspect, and did not promote much involvement on the part of the students. The location in the Student Union is much more prominent and observable to the student body, and ultimately sparks more interest in the association," said Rodrigues.

Rodrigues compared the last student government with the present



Jose Rodrigues: "The AS is revived."

AS and said, "My effectiveness during the last administration was at one point very minimal. The last administration did not see the issues and the situation.

"The Board is a Board now. Before, no one had control of the situation and the old Board was kept from knowing things. Some decisions were made on hiring that were wrong."

Rodrigues said, "The AS is revived, well-informed, and acts. All of the present members of the AS are interested in the association."

He said he thinks an increase in student fees is past due. An attempt to raise the ceiling on student fees from the current \$10 to \$20 was vetoed by Governor Brown this year.

"The bill that Governor Brown killed will most likely be reintroduced after January, and another attempt to raise the student fee would be made," Rodrigues said. "10 is inadequate, and there is real need to raise it."

According to Rodrigues, the fee does not provide a comfortable margin of revenue that would enable the AS to survive a drop in enrollment. Student fees are collected during registration and are directly proportionate to the number of students attending SF State.

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Sources of Energy—No. 5 of a series
If solar energy can help heat a house, why can't it run a power plant?

The answer is clouded

PG&E, like a number of other utilities and research organizations, is working on practical ways to use the sun's energy. Areas that show the greatest promise include heating of homes and buildings, and water heating, including swimming pools.

Using the sun's energy to produce electric power is far more difficult and complicated and is too expensive to use today. And, because the sun only works one shift, conventional power plants will be needed at night or when the sun doesn't shine. Or else ways must be developed for large scale storage of electricity.

Research is under way to develop more efficient solar "cells" to convert the sun's energy directly into electricity. Other research is aimed at using the sun's heat to make steam, or to heat gases, to run turbine generators producing electricity. We hope that continuing research will pay off and that toward the end of the century the sun will be providing a significant portion of needed electricity.

Other sources of energy

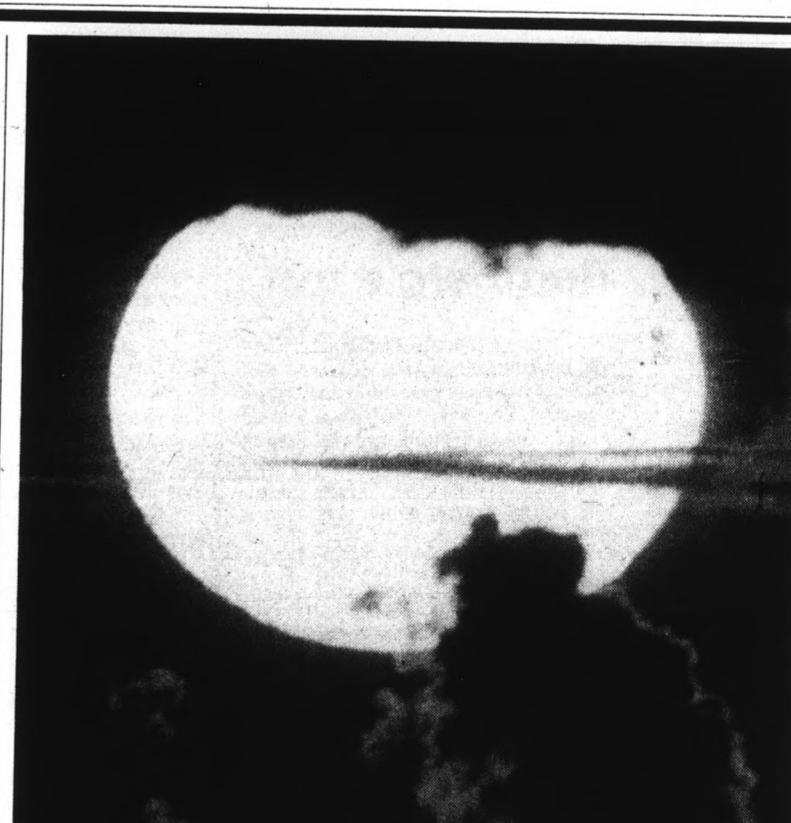
There are 5 sources of primary energy which PG&E now uses for generating electricity.

Northern California has one of the nation's most extensive hydroelectric systems. It produces relatively inexpensive electricity, but nearly all economic and acceptable hydro sites have already been developed. That's why natural gas and oil had to become more prominent in our energy mix.

Unfortunately, the costs of these fossil fuels have been skyrocketing. In the last 5 years, the price of oil has increased sixfold and the price for natural gas has tripled, accounting for most of our rate increases.

PG&E has the nation's only geothermal power development, largest in the world, and we are expanding it. However, we estimate it will supply only about 10 percent of our needs by 1985.

These limitations are reasons why our fifth primary source of energy, nuclear, is so important, and why we, like other utility systems here and abroad, have turned to uranium as power plant fuel. When our two nuclear



units at Diablo Canyon go into operation they can produce electricity for about 40% less than new oil-fired plants, despite higher initial construction costs.

Coal one day may be our sixth source of primary energy. We have recently acquired substantial reserves in Utah.

Wind, solar, garbage, tides, ocean thermal differences, fusion and other developing technologies may someday help us supply your energy. Some may take years to prove out. Others may never become efficient or reliable enough to be competitive. But if and when they are ready, we'll be ready, too. In the meantime, we must meet your demands for electricity.

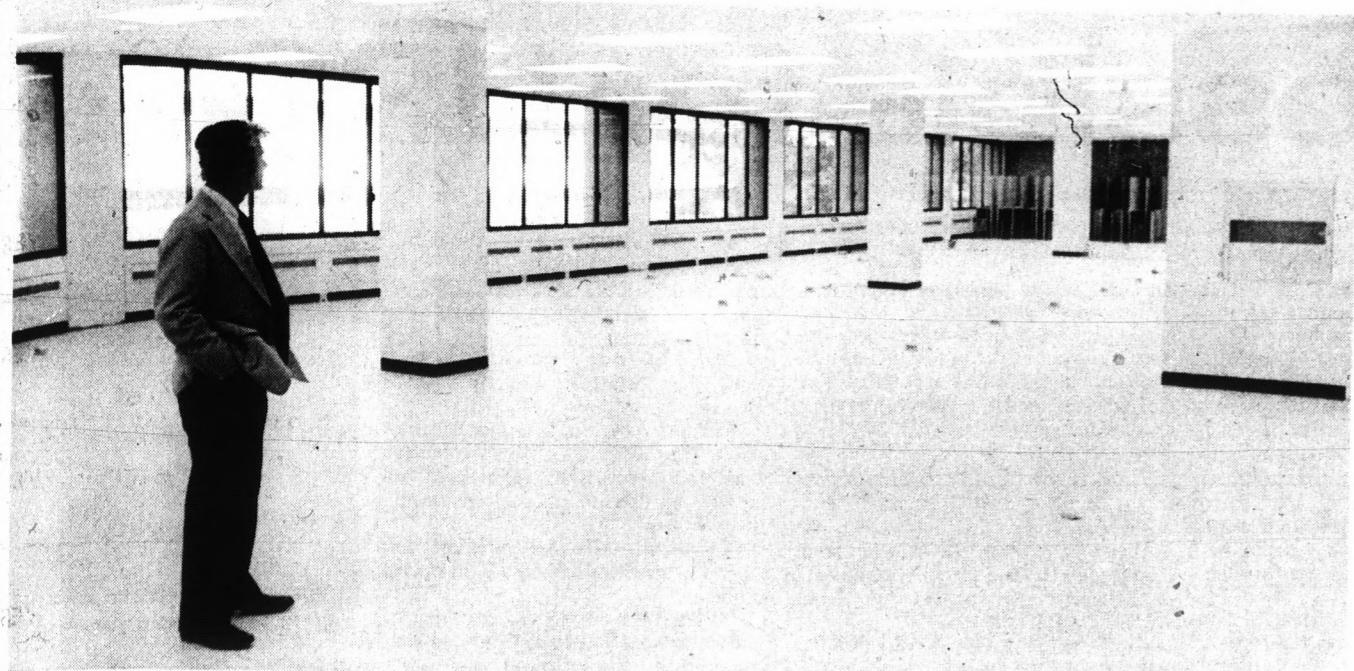
Facing the problem together

The demand for electricity continues to grow, partly because population itself

continues to grow. The problem meeting this growing demand is critical.

For our part, we will continue our urgent efforts to develop all available sources, to find new ways to use energy more efficiently, and to keep you provided with adequate energy and reliable service at the lowest possible cost. For your part, the effective way to help control the spiraling cost of energy, is to use less of it. We encourage you to do so because the energy you use is too precious...and too costly...to waste.

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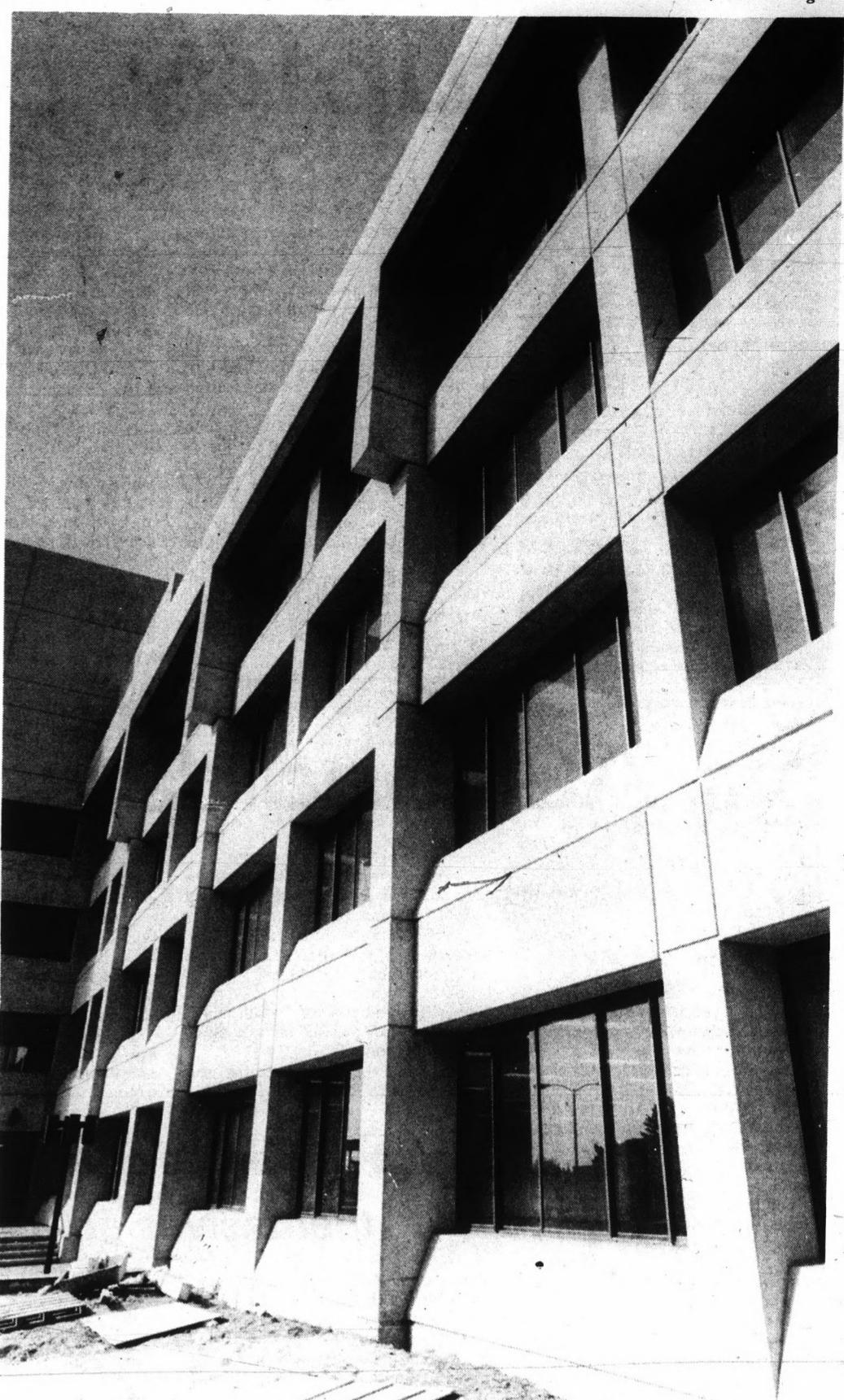
Ad Building opens this fall

SF State President Paul F. Romberg broke the ground for the new Administration Building on Feb. 18, 1975. The building will be open and in use by fall, 1977.

The building was designed by the architectural

and engineering firm of Welton Becket and Associates. The joint general contractors are Paxton-Grosword Construction Company and S.J. Amoroso Construction Company.

Photography-Bob Miche and Martin Jeong



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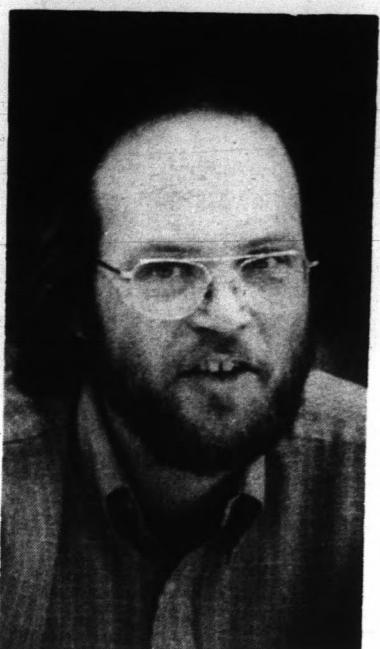
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Bankruptcy possible for UPC



Robert Cherny, UPC president.

Continued from Page 1

business agent.

They are:

* No overtime is authorized during the current contract period without prior executive committee action.

* Any unauthorized overtime will be deemed to be a donation to the local.

* Overtime may be compensated by vacation time only, taken at the rate of one and one-half hours of vacation for each hour of overtime.

* Any claim for overtime accumulated before the adoption of the policy must be submitted within 30 days of the adoption of the policy by the executive committee, together with appropriate documentation of hours worked and authorization for that overtime.

* The policy adopted by the executive committee in May, 1976, authorizing travel expenses for the business agent to state council meetings is repealed.

* If the business agent deems it necessary to attend state council meetings, he shall make a specific request

From a memo from Bob Cherny to all UPC members on campus, distributed on the first day of balloting for the 1976-77 UPC election:

"I propose appointing a special sub-committee of the Executive Committee to conduct a complete and careful review of our resources, needs, and priorities, and to draft a budget for the coming academic year based upon that review. We have never operated from budget in the past. I would include in this review our use of paid staff (salaries, fringe benefits, and distributions accounted for \$9,655.67 during 1975). It may well be that our staff needs could best be met by a part-time secretary rather than a 3/4 time business agent."

for authorization of travel funds prior to that meeting, and the executive committee shall evaluate each such request on its merits.

* Require the business agent to pay his own dues, rather than have them deducted from the dues paid by members of the local.

Cherny has also stated: "It may well be that our staff needs could best be met by a part-time secretary rather than a three-quarter-time business agent."

The executive committee has yet to act on these recommendations.

Part of Shadwick's job is to increase

membership in the union. If membership increases to 400 by May, Shadwick's salary and retirement/sabbatical funds would go from \$1,043 to \$1,180 a month.

He is currently paid \$897 month, according to the projected nine-month figures for 1976-77 developed by Cherny. In addition, Shadwick receives \$1,315 per year in retirement and sabbatical funds, and \$153 for travel, as opposed to \$1,183.80 for travel in 1975-76, and \$1,118.72 for travel in 1974-75.

I don't know what those expenses are," Cherny said. "I wasn't president

then."

In the April, 1976, elections, Cherny defeated Uthman 112-95. Various inside sources have indicated constant political infighting between two distinct factions of the union.

The division is a personality question, "who thinks who is boss," Cherny was told.

Richard Axen, UPC vice president, said, "The union has more problems than you can realize." He refused to answer further questions, referring them to Cherny.

The union has united in efforts to suppress publication of its internal problems.

"I was told not to say anything," said a source who asked to remain anonymous. "No one will talk now. That includes both sides."

"UPC is afraid of the story because it might affect recruitment. The union is closer than ever to becoming the collective bargaining agent," a UPC source said.

"It is felt that if and when we get collective bargaining, UPC will win the election for bargaining agent," Cherny said in his first interview Friday, Oct. 15. He extended the interview to Monday, Oct. 18. At the Monday meeting Cherny was visibly upset and unwilling to answer questions.

"Why don't you ask what UPC has done for the faculty?" he said. "You are not pursuing the job of a state-supported newspaper."



Ann Uthman, former president of UPC



Gordon Shadwick, UPC business agent

No AS candidates declared

Continued from Page 1

ahead of time," thus missing the five-day petition filing period.

This year, the filing period has been extended to two weeks: from Oct. 25 through Nov. 6.

Under the AS Elections Code, potential candidates must turn in petitions "signed by at least 25 students from the class level or school that the candidate wishes to represent."

Candidates for president, vice-president, treasurer and Legislative representatives-at-large can obtain signatures from any student on campus.

Candidates for School of Ethnic Studies representative need only ten signatures from majors in the school. This rule is largely a response to complaints that the school is smaller than others on campus.

The extension in the filing period has not ended complaints that running for AS office is difficult for non-incumbents.

Student Union Governing Board member Deacon Butterworth, who has charged that the "Elections Code was designed to keep typical students from filing," said he thinks the petition rule should be changed so that any student, regardless of major or class, can sign a

Office space allocations challenged

Continued from Page 1

Some of these groups got more space than others. PASU has an office three times larger than that of the Coalition of Business Organizations, which is made up of eight groups.

"Nobody could make up their minds," said Basconcillo. "I only hope that next year's allocation committee uses a different set of weighting factors."

Basconcillo, whose committee originally had only three members, felt the 12 organizations on the revised committee tried to avoid being pitted against each other.

"From their positions of special interest, that was understandable," she said. "But I also noticed that there was a conspicuous lack of any challenge to the maneuvers of PASU."

"Everyone was walking on pins and needles to avoid disturbing PASU — it annoyed me."

The Gay Academic Union received a much smaller space than last year. All their supplies were unceremoniously, and, they allege, illegally moved one night into a "cubbyhole of an office."

"We're the fourth largest campus group as far as funds are concerned," said Richard Sevilla, organizer for the GAU. "Yet (the committee) stuck us in such a little place. We're really the only group on the Student Union mezzanine to be set up."

"But space allocation is a dead issue now," he said. "We're waiting for next year."

"The amount of time that office space is used should become an important part of the criteria," said Butterworth. "All 140 campus organizations should be involved in space allocation meetings, or else special interest groups will continue to dominate the meetings."

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candidate's petition.

Butterworth said that having to seek students from a candidate's own school or class makes running for office difficult, particularly for graduate students who may have a hard time finding other grads.

Butterworth will run for re-election to the Governing Board, which is not connected with the AS. He would not discuss his party.

Fike said he had discussed the signatures with Butterworth, and said

means of insuring compliance with campaign spending limits as listed in the Elections Code.

Under the Code, individual candidates may not spend more than \$100 "for materials used in the campaign." Slates are limited to \$200 plus \$10 for each candidate on the slate.

Previously, candidates had only a day to produce their budgets, and all campaigners-winners and losers—were required to turn in records.

participation in the election by establishing more polling places and by increasing the length of the voting period.

The Elections Committee has planned one polling place, in the Student Union. The election will last three days.

"I'm of the view that thousands of commuter students never go into the Student Union during the election," Butterworth said.

According to Fike, a longer election would not improve voter turnout because "more than half the people who vote vote on the first day." He said lengthening the voting period would mean only that "procrastinators would have to wait longer for the last day."

Fike also said extra polling places are ruled out by the Elections Committee's method of checking off voters.

The poll workers line out each student's name on a master enrollment sheet as the student votes. Without a quick way to cross-check, Fike said, a student could vote at one location and then vote again somewhere else.

Fike said he hoped to boost student participation by increasing publicity about the election—particularly through full-page ads in Zenger's, the AS-published campus newspaper.

"It's really up to the people running to generate publicity," Fike said. "I think it's wrong if they want to sit back and let the Elections Committee do it."

'A lot of people could buy themselves an election.'

that changing the rule "would diminish the chances of getting people who are willing to work."

Getting enough qualified signatures is a test to see if candidates are really interested in their office, Fike said.

Butterworth said many of his gripes with the Elections Code were satisfied through conversations with Fike and through the passage of Code revisions at the Oct. 13 Legislature meeting.

Under one revision, freshmen may run for sophomore class representative if they are enrolled in enough units to put them over the 30-unit minimum by the time they take office.

This spells out a previously unwritten policy. Fike said that some would-be candidates were under the impression they had to be sophomores before running.

In another change, winning candidates may now take 72 hours to turn in their campaign budgets.

The AS requires candidates to produce their financial records as a

Fike said the spending limit was established because "a lot of people could really buy themselves an election."

Butterworth has complained that the limits are too low to pay for enough publicity to elect non-incumbent candidates and slates.

One full-page ad in Phoenix costs \$198.45. A similar ad filling one of Zenger's smaller pages runs for \$122.

"I think \$100 for each candidate is a lot of money," Fike said. "It depends on how you use it."

Fike was elected to the Legislature on the Better Education through Equal Representation (BEER) slate in spring 1975.

According to then president-elect LeMond Goodloe, the party spent \$321 on its campaign.

Butterworth said that despite the recent revisions in the election rules, "the people in the know still have an advantage."

He said the AS could increase voter

New bills pose threat; student loans at stake

Continued from Page 1

lars in federally insured loans. There is absolutely no talk, no bill, nothing at all saying that if New York has to file a municipal bankruptcy they cannot wipe out 12 billion dollars of federally insured municipal loans," he said.

According to Slavicek there has been no protest against the proposed law.

"If nothing is mentioned by students, if nothing is said, if nothing is done, one of the three bills will pass. And why not? They think students don't care," he said.

"Everyone was walking on pins and needles to avoid disturbing PASU — it annoyed me."

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"We're the fourth largest campus group as far as funds are concerned," said Richard Sevilla, organizer for the GAU. "Yet (the committee) stuck us in such a little place. We're really the only group on the Student Union mezzanine to be set up."

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"

Editorial

Political greed

By now it should be obvious to the campus community that the student political system is dictated by special interest groups.

Campus political organizations, such as the Space Allocation Committee (SAC), are discriminating against campus groups by allowing their board members to dominate the decision-making process.

It is no coincidence that the Pan Afrikan Student Union has space allocations three times the size of eight other groups put together. It is the dominant force in the AS as well as on the Student Union Governing Board, and, apparently, it will continue to influence campus politics without any challenge.

It is no accident that members of the SAC dominate the office space in the Student Union.

The five ethnic organizations on the SAC gobbled up the Student Union Basement, forcing most of the 140 campus groups to scramble for any office space remaining on campus. Most do without.

This is a blatant misplacement of priorities. *Phoenix* is disgusted with special interest politicking by campus groups, although it seems to be the trend at SF State.

Presumably, disgust will just become a way of life.

OPINIONS



LETTERS

LEATHER QUEENS

Editor:
I am writing to disagree with both the article and the responding letter about "Leather Queens."

First of all, I thought the article most offensive. I am a gay man at times attracted to S&M fantasies. That rarely involve myself in any heavily physical and dramatic acting out-complete with costumes and props-is an indication of my own ambivalence, caution, confusion and politics. (Certainly just fucking can have elements of role-playing, even unstated.) However, I am not so righteous as to put something down that I don't understand and am in some ways afraid of even in myself.

I felt the article was offensive because this was exactly your writer's attitude. The writer was not honest enough to say what his orientation was and what he felt about his subject, even though writing about it could indicate unexplained fascination. (I myself came out writing a sociology paper about homosexuality.) Instead the writer contented himself with being cute about a subject he recognizes people generally-leather queens somewhat excepted-do not understand. Is it the function of a school paper to simply laugh at groups you are incapable of explaining? Why not some interviews with the people involved. And why can a group be described simply by what they wear and the stores they frequent? I would hate to see heterosexuals defined by the "cute" things they buy in Macy's.

But all of this only indicates the very straight attitude of your paper. If this reporter were gay, he probably didn't feel comfortable about coming out in the atmosphere of your newspaper room that pervades much of the campus. If he were not, couldn't a gay reporter be found who wouldn't treat the "fruits" as cutesy creeps? And if the answer to this is no, then why, in San Francisco of all places, is the student newspaper so straight?

While I was in your office typing up this letter I overheard one of your staff members ask another, "Hey, did any more fruits (sic) write in about that leather queen article?" And then the conversation died down into a low ridicule of, yes, another letter had come in and how low some of the minds are on this campus.

These kinds of attitudes, unquestioned or ignored, don't make a positive environment for gay people to work in, so of course, you will continue to either ignore and/or offend the gay community on this campus and the things we can teach you about yourselves.

As for the letter in response, I agree that role-playing must be transcended, but sometimes this can be done through role-playing rather than denying that you want to and trying to be right on all the time. Love to you anyway, sisters and brothers, and fury to Phoenix.

Konstantin Berlandt

I believe that a careful reading of my article will show that I was not trying to put anyone down. Rather, I wanted to discuss a particular segment of the gay community in a serious and understanding manner. This does not, hope, preclude the use of humor; many of the gay people I interviewed in preparing the article used the same humor.

Although I am not into leather or S & M, I am gay. I was open about that in discussing the project with Phoenix editors.

I was not trying to describe a group simply by what they wear and the

stores they frequent. The focus of the article was to be gay leather clothing. Within the space limitations of the newspaper format, not much else could be brought up.

Finally, I, like you, am painfully aware of anti-gay remarks made by some members of the Phoenix staff.

Lenny Giteck

FOOD SCRIPS

Editor:

Thank you for this opportunity to briefly respond to the two recent articles appearing in the *Phoenix* issue of Oct. 14, regarding the scrip transferability program to the Student Union, and food costs for students in the Dining Center.

Since both these subjects are so involved, in terms of the many concerned parties and their mutual or individual tastes, we at PFM have always preferred to meet "face to face" through a variety of student and administrative committees and other concerned groups, representing a wide spectrum of resident students and other interested students of San Francisco State University...To communicate and to act on all suggestions or recommendations regarding the residence hall foods program.

We believe that these meetings are the most appropriate and beneficial forums for involved and detailed discussions. Also to resolve any and all differences especially those concerning the scrip program.

We at PFM are proud of our student relationships and student involvement, and the high degree of satisfaction and participation in the Dining Center food program here at the university. As always, we continue to encourage active concern and involvement from all resident students in their food service program.

We are in essence, asking that these students whose articles appeared last Oct. 14, join the Food Committee and become an active part in it.

Bob H. Severson
PFM-Director of Food Service

CAMPUS WALLPAPER

Editor:

Although the statistics regarding the Duplicating Center in the *Phoenix* article ("Campus Wallpaper," Oct. 7) are correct, the picture and caption lead the reader to believe that the Center not only encourages unnecessary production but is itself guilty of waste in the printing process.

The article, on the other hand, rightly places the responsibility on student groups, administrators, and faculty members who order the printing.

The Duplicating Center exists to serve the campus community and is therefore subject to its demands. The solution to the stuffed wastebasket problem lies with the sources of the material destined for such receptacles.

Francis Cantrell
Duplicating Center

PROPOSITION 14

Editor:

This letter is in response to Karl Schweitzer's article of Oct. 7 on the Proposition 14 supporters. It seems unfair for Karl not to recognize the time and dedication given by farm worker supporters. He owes an apology to UFW supporters who he claims "would support any cause that might be fashionable."

In his article, Karl implies a generality concerning child labor that is substantiated only by his individual observations. Because Karl has not witnessed child labor, and because it is illegal, he denies its existence. The American Friends Service Committee report *Child Labor in Agriculture*, Summer 1970 estimates 100,000 child (under age 16) farm laborers in California.

We support the efforts of farm workers to pass the Proposition 14 initiative, which will give them the unionization rights that industrial workers have had since 1935. Secret ballot elections are essential if farm workers are to determine their future, and can only be realized through passage of Proposition 14. The UFW Support Committee urges the student body to look beyond Karl Schweitzer's limitations, and give 14 a "yes" vote.

Richard Morales
Eve Aschheim
SF State UFW Support Committee

KUDOS

Editor:

Kudos for Jennifer Eastlake, a truly liberated person, who, in spite of all the bad static she may receive from her sisters in the future, had the courage and strength of character to air her views publicly about the much-talked about OUI ad. What she has to say about daytime television pap for women is all too true, and hearing this from a now-woman makes me feel somehow much more secure and less-threatened in this Women's world. That's right, Jennifer, you tell them! What's better than a woman to tell women what's what.

Miguel Hugo Aguilera-Esteban

TAXPAYER OBJECTION

Editor:

SF State has just sunk to a new low by allowing the book *The Joy of Sex* to be sold from the college bookstore.

As a taxpayer I object.

Indirectly, I am being placed in the position of approving this book, since it "meets" with State approval.

The *Joy of Sex* is: impure, immodest, indecent, ribald, raw, rotten and rank. Photographs, drawings and text are so vile, that they belong more in a trash can than on a college campus.

Dr. Comfort's book *The Joy of Sex*, should be dropped from the center of the Golden Gate Bridge tied to a six ton anchor. Also, the book and the author should be dropped off together in the same container.

Marjorie D. Martin

LIBRARY TYPEWRITERS

Editor:

The typewriters for student use, located on the fourth floor of the library, are in irritatingly poor condition. Usually all the electric typewriters are missing ribbons, the manual machines either have dirty keys or a "skipping" problem, and the tables are lopsided. These typewriters, as well as the table on which they set, are supposedly for the students to use, but when broken or worn down as they are now, what good are they?

Most of the problems are caused by normal wear and tear, for when any machine is used often enough, its performance level drifts downward. Right now, repairs are needed on these

typewriters. Once these repairs are made, a program of maintenance in which the typing equipment is checked at regular intervals of at least two times per week should be put into effect.

P. Kapono Andermann

OUTRAGED AND SHOCKED

Editor:

How can I even begin to express my outrage at your irresponsible mauling of women, gays, and minorities by twisting the First Amendment past the point of "merely" violating the journalistic principle of balanced unbiased reporting and coming dangerously close to infringing on the clearly stated principle of the Ninth Amendment?

"The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights," it says, "Shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

As a human being, I am shocked. But if I were a woman, and black, and a lesbian - well... I think I'd have a lot of trouble controlling my anger. Point by point:

1 - Your Managing Editor has told me you have no advertising policy: you just accept 'em all. You better wise up, kiddies, before you take that attitude into the job market 'cause I've talked this matter over with as many bay area papers as I could, from the S.F. Progress to the Examiner to the Oakland Tribune, to Plexus, to the Barb and back again. They were unanimous about the need and desirability of the establishment and use of clear advertising standards that reflected both the rights and desires of its readers and those of prospective advertisers. (Examples: an ad for Oui got a doubtful OK per se from all except Plexus for reasons cited below, but all equally rejected the printing of its front cover as acceptable content; all would print a Gallo ad unless they had a policy of not accepting ads that promoted the sale of alcoholic beverages.)

2 - None of these papers felt they lost either readers or revenue because of their advertising policies.

3 - A woman has a right to control her own body and use it as she determines, not as Louise Petraitis or you or I decide. As someone who's familiar with the "porn" industry, I can tell you that money's on that front cover. Try getting a woman to pose nude for you by telling her such a beautiful body ought to be shared with every male in the country...

4 - Minorities are centered around their own oppression first. It's kinda hard to feel oppressed as a woman when you're discriminated against daily because of the color of your skin.

When people begin to leave your racial and national origins out of it and a woman still finds herself being stomped on, then she has time to think and act around women's issues.

5 - Your overall content is so biased I'm not even certain you belong in the laboratory yet, and the gruesomely sexist "Leather Queen World" extends your bias into your reporting. You portray homosexuals as unbalanced, failing to balance a minority's minority against the minority's majority. That's stereotyping in case you didn't know it.

Sorry, folks, but I ain't buying any of it. You've had plenty of time to act on the questions of advertising policy and sexism; to show responsible reporting practices. If you can't write and edit a paper, then get out of print and save your money until you can!

W. Turrell

Gatorville

Students slapped by university threats

Al Hunt

Gatorville has been demolished. The site remains vacant while former residents who were reluctant to give up their homes are being threatened with the withholding of their grades, diplomas, transcripts or re-registration.

The SF State administration served residents a 60-day notice in November, 1974, indicating that the Gatorville facility would be closed on Jan. 5, 1975. Students were faced with finding a new home in the middle of the school year.

Legal action by the Gatorville Association caused the university to keep the apartments open for 19 months beyond the closing date. Residents attempted to pay rent after Jan. 5, 1975, but the administration would not accept it. That is strange, because the administration now wants to collect monies equivalent to rents not paid during the time of litigation. But there were no contracts or leases in effect requiring students to pay rents after January, 1975.

Sixteen judgments concerning the die-hard residents of Gatorville were handed down by Judge Charles Egan Goff, based on a 1974 ruling in the California Supreme Court (Green vs. California). Judge Goff's decision was that no rents were due. There was no appeal. And yet the administration continues to press the former residents for money.

In granting a permit to tear down

the Gatorville buildings, the California Coastal Zone Commission specified two conditions: that comparable housing must be provided evicted residents of Gatorville and that low-cost housing be provided for future married students on campus. Neither of the terms has been met. A loophole the administration is sliding through is that there was no time limit placed on these conditions.

Clyde Stitt, legal counsel for the Gatorville Association, has filed suit in Superior Court charging the State of California with discrimination against married students by not supplying them with housing comparable to the dormitories.

The action is based on discrimination standards defined in the Fourteenth Amendment.

And it is not a question of money. Administrators have loaned out \$60,000 from a housing fund that could have been used to improve Gatorville. Instead, the money went for improvements to the campus Dining Center. The loan has yet to be repaid.

An athletic field proposed for the former Gatorville site is still in the works. A cost estimate for the athletic field is \$112,000. SF State has no state-allocated funding for construction of the field.

Gatorville's destruction began in July, 1976. What was once home for more than 50 married student families is now a vacant lot. Empty.

Dormitory fallout endangering lives

Damian Strahl

Passive, content, mature and businesslike.

These are words the media uses to contrast this generation of college students with the generation that raped and pillaged the serenity of the sixties.

For the record, it should be noted that this is the same generation of passive scholars currently launching beer cans, bottles, and an occasional shopping cart out the windows of the SF State residence halls.

The past four weeks have been lucky ones for the university dormitories: lucky in that no one has been killed by the truckloads of garbage hurled out windows, off roofs, and down fire escape shafts by collegiate neanderthals.

A few weeks ago, a bunch of crazy kids just out looking for crazy fun filled a garbage can with water and dropped it several stories down the Verducci Hall fire escape shaft. At the bottom of each shaft is a walkway that leads outdoors. The walkway is covered to protect people from any falling debris incidental to a real fire. The cover was completely destroyed by the plummeting garbage can.

A week later, a shopping cart borrowed from Stonestown was sent down a fire escape and reduced to mangled, twisted wire on impact.

A recent Saturday morning tally showed seven bottles and eight cans strewn on the lawns in front of Mary Ward and Merced halls.

Verducci residents have discovered that the fluorescent light tubes in the hallways make great explosions after floating down fifteen stories onto concrete.

These are a few examples of the flying object epidemic. If anyone has been underneath one of these falling objects they would have been severely injured or killed.

It is useless to argue the morality or the mentality of the individuals who throw things off the tops of buildings. Anyone fascinated by the image of a shiny, street-bound missile cutting through the troposphere is incapable of thinking about the consequences for a hapless pedestrian who might be strolling through the target area.

Appeals to the common sense of the residents succeed only with those who have the common sense to not toss bottles out the window in the first place. Simply hoping that no one gets hit is not being realistic.

The fact that no one has been hit defies all odds. It is clear that the university must respond to this problem with the promise of immediate eviction for anyone caught throwing objects from their windows.

Passive, content, mature and businesslike?

Ha.

Viet refugees

Vietnamese refugees attending school in the California State University and Colleges system have been granted resident status for tuition purposes by Assembly Bill 3147.

These students no longer have to pay high foreign student tuition fees.

Cameos: not another bicentennial minute

Harold Kruger

Jean De Sales Bertram is bullish on the American Dream.

"The mere fact that people could disagree back in 1776 and still live with one another was quite a big thing," she said. "There were governments then and there are governments now where that kind of disagreement is not permitted."

"If we have the right to disagree and still live in a measure of harmony with one another, what's so wrong about it all? Nobody ever said turning a dream into a reality would be easy. There's a very fine line between a dream and a nightmare."

If Bertram sounds like an historian and philosopher, it's because she is. She's also an actress and ex-journalist. Bertram "is not one to linger on the past," so as a professor of theatre arts she looks ahead to next Tuesday, Oct. 26, when her play, *American Cameos*, opens in the Arena Theatre (CA 104).

"What *American Cameos* is not is another bicentennial minute," she said.

American Cameos tells stories of the American Revolution that history books missed. No schools were named after the characters in *American Cameos*, and their birthdays don't make for three-day holidays.

"I think we have been so exposed to the big people throughout history that we have a very distorted view about what life was really like," said Bertram.

"Why not the little people? Why not show people like you or me and all the rest of the little folks who labor day by day trying to do their bit, work out their own problems? I think it's fascinating to find out how the people who don't make the headlines manage to get through the day."



Jean De Sales Bertram: former reporter turned playwright.

Creativity from cramped quarters

Jane Sokol

Art Department professors are trying to offer a creative atmosphere, despite an excess of students for the space provided.

"One of the mandatory needs on campus is more space in the Art Department," says Ralph Putzker, department chairman. "We recognize this as reality. Our ambitions will continue to grow despite the space problem."

Most students and instructors, however, are not as tolerant as Putzker is of that problem.

"I've been here five semesters in the Art Department and finally, as a senior, I got a photography course," said photography major Jan Simon.

ARTS

"The waiting was a drag. I've heard we are one of the last priorities for a new building."

John Gutmann, a professional painter, photographer, and professor emeritus at SF State, started the photography program and designed the lab here in 1949. It is the same size today as it was 27 years ago.

The lab consists of six darkrooms (one for graduate students only), a chemical mixing room, an equipment room, studio room (essentially used for critiques), and a community lab with ten enlargers.

"It's kind of a drag to lecture in a classroom which is like a hallway to the lab," said photography instructor Neal White, referring to the studio room.

Gutmann and White also were critical of the area's ventilation system, which they said had not worked properly since the lab was built.

The space problem is also in evidence in the three rooms of the ceramics program. One room alone is utilized by 200 undergraduate students.

"People can't work because their stuff gets wrecked," said one student.

As a direct result of the space problem, the Art Department can allow only a limited number of students into the major. The student quoted above said she had to "forge signatures and do all kinds of crazy things" to get into the department. Another student said, "Potential art majors have to be turned away by the droves."

Students fortunate enough to be among the approximately 400 art majors must complete 24 units in basic art courses and 16 units in their area of specialization, which may be drawing and painting, printmaking,



Space for persons and objects in the Art Department can be at a premium, as a look at a ceramics class reveals.

photography, sculpture, metal arts, textiles, ceramics, design, art history, or art education.

While each major must have an emphasis, the curriculum (which includes 120 courses) is designed to produce an artist with a basic knowledge in several areas.

"We don't want to turn out highly-talented photographers without any

other fundamental knowledge," said Putzker.

Putzker, who has been teaching at SF State for 17 years, terms himself a "utility infielder," explaining this as "making images of anything conceivable out of anything conceivable."

This semester he is teaching an experimental course in photography dealing with color transparency in slides.

Art students and faculty plead for campus gallery

The need for an art gallery on campus is a common plea by both students and faculty in the Art Department. Last year, Bob Turner, student activities advisor to the Student Union, tried to obtain the second floor of the old bookstore as a gallery; however, the decision was made by President Romberg to have the facility converted into a faculty lounge.

Another possibility is the old gallery lounge, now occupied by the Student Health Service, which will soon move into its new building. Turner has made a request for the facility from Student Affairs, but

there have also been other requests, including one by EOP for use as a tutorial center.

"There's a bit of ego in us all; and artists are no exception," said Art Department Chairman Ralph Putzker. "The Art, Humanities, and Anthropology departments have discussed merging their efforts toward a permanent gallery-museum."

Carl Rowlett, a senior art major, added: "We're sort of servants to society; and, therefore, we should have a place — a gallery on campus — to show what we have to offer. Otherwise we stay within four walls."

Mary Stuart is a stiff

George Fulmore

Despite some good individual performances, *Mary Stuart*, the semester's first major production by the Theatre Arts Department, is generally a stiff and unconvincing production.

The play gains strength mid-way through the second act, but the damage has been done. For the most part, the characters seem to be giving individual readings rather than interacting to bring the story to life.

Jill Jaffe, as Elizabeth I, gives a strong performance, especially in the second act when her emotions rise under the stress of having to seal the fate of her half-sister, Mary.

Jude Goers, as Mary, does a good job; however, she seems to be concentrating more on her own performance than on her interaction with other characters.

The best performance comes from Robert Kip, as the Lord High Treasurer. He plays his part with confidence and projects his voice throughout the theatre. In several scenes he

seems to settle the other actors and encourage them toward more realistic portrayals. His brief interaction with Jon Edelstein, as Sir William Davidson, over the possession of Mary's death decree, provides one of the few light moments of the play.

Generally stiff performances are given by Gary Graves as Mortimer, Frank DiCarlo as the French Ambassador, and Michael Hasty as the Earl of Leicester. Graves, in addition to his awkward stage movements, is guilty of overacting. The production is favored by the loss of his character at the end of act one.

Robert Howseman gives a timid performance as Sir Paulet, Mary's

keeper. The result is as unconvincing as his scraggly beard, which is noticeably attached to his chin.

Praise should go to Elaine Sausotte and her crew for the elaborate costumes, especially those worn by the two queens.

And all cannot be blamed on director Thomas Tyrrell. The production moves at a brisk pace with few dead spots. The transitional scenes, done before the curtain to allow the set to be changed, work very smoothly.

The final performances of *Mary Stuart* will be tonight and Friday at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Student admission is \$1.25 and \$1.

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By Larry Sandberg and Dick Weissman. With 110 photos. At bookstores. Big 9x12 Paperback \$7.95. Hardcover \$15. Knopf

Calendar

Oct. 21-27

ART

Ethnic Studies Art Exhibit. Second floor of the old bookstore. Admission free.

FILMS

Tod and Fri - *The Day of the Locust*, starring Donald Sutherland. University Productions. Barbary Coast at 4 and 8 p.m. today and 8 p.m. Fri. Admission free.

Mon - A Russian production of *King Lear*. Cinematheque's Shakespeare on the Screen. McKenna Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Admission free.

Tue - Saturday Night and Sunday Morning, starring Albert Finney. Cinematheque. McKenna Theatre at 4:15 p.m. Admission 50 cents.

Tue - *Sambizanga*. Free-B Film Series. Barbary Coast at noon. Admission free.

Wed - *The Leopard*, directed by Luchino Visconti and starring Burt Lancaster. Cinematheque. McKenna Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Admission free.

MUSIC

Today - Open rehearsal of the Symphonic Band. Knuth Hall from 10 a.m. to noon. Admission free.

Fri - Student recitals. Knuth Hall at 1 p.m. Admission free.

Mon - Pro Musica Nova Concert, featuring electronic music. Knuth Hall at 8 p.m. Admission free.

Tue - High Country, country and western music. Union Depot from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission free.

Wed - Chamber Music Concert. Las Vegas Varga, director, Knuth Hall at 1 p.m. Admission free.

Thu - The Carozzi and Aldrich Duo, jazz with bass and guitar. Union Depot from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission free.

Fri - Donald Hall and Tom Clark. The Poetry Center. Barbary Coast at 3 p.m. Admission free.

POETRY

Wed - Donald Hall and Tom Clark. The Poetry Center. Barbary Coast at 3 p.m. Admission free.

TELEVISION

Television Video Center (TVC) 12:30 to 2 p.m. daily. Television viewing room, the base of the north tower of the Student Union.

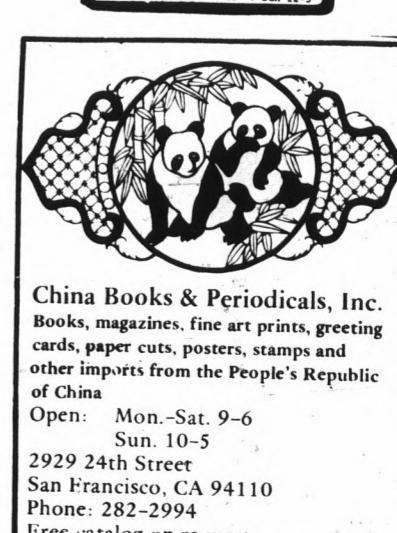
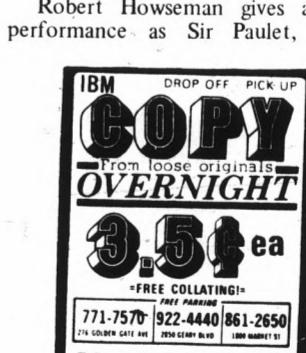
THEATRE

Today and Fri - *Mary Stuart*, directed by Tom Tyrrell. Theatre Arts Department. Little Theatre at 8 p.m. Admission \$1.25 and \$1.

Today and Fri - *Archy and Mehitabel*, a musical based on vignettes of Don Marquis. Brown Bag Theatre. CA 102 at noon. Admission free.

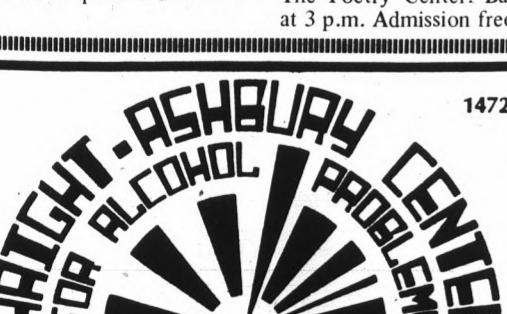
Tue and Wed - *American Cameos*, an original production by Jean De Sales Bertram. Theatre Arts Department. CA 104 at 8 p.m. Admission \$1.

Tue and Wed - *Play It Again, Sam*, by Woody Allen. Brown Bag Theatre. CA 102 at noon. Admission free.



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By Larry Sandberg and Dick Weissman. With 110 photos. At bookstores. Big 9x12 Paperback \$7.95. Hardcover \$15. Knopf

After hours club life

There are places in the City that cater exclusively to the nocturnal crowd -- these establishments are open until the early morning hours.

Alan Nation

A uniformed guard stands out on the sidewalk at 16th and Market, waving double parked autos on and rousing drivers out of the red zone down the street from the Shed. Inside the narrow doorway, two uniformed guards hold back the small line of people waiting to pay and enter. A man behind a high desk takes the money from the people coming in very slowly and no one rushes or shoves to get inside. "Johnny" checks the men coming in and carries a long-barreled .357 high on his hip.

The inside of the shed is covered with rough plank walls. Those and the bare wood floors make it look like an Old West dance hall. Knots of men stand around, some shooting pool on the far side of the hall. To the right is a stairway that leads down to the disco, a stark contrast to the quiet and empty hall upstairs.

The air is thick with smoke, and the odor of marijuana floats through the crowded basement dance floor. No alcohol is allowed at the Shed, but a bottle can still be smuggled in.

The Shed is one of the few "after hours" clubs in the city, clubs that open late in the evening and close in the early morning hours.

Leonard (Lenny) Rose, 22, has been the Shed's disco DJ for about two years.

Speaking softly in contrast to the noise level surrounding his glass-enclosed booth, Lenny describes the evolution of the Shed.

"The Shed was primarily a gay dance hall at first, and then developed into a composite of gay, straight, black and white. In between this transition the Shed was something of a Latin salsa club. Everybody comes to the Shed now," he says, making a sweeping gesture with his hand.

"The crowd that comes to the Shed now does not dance to anything unless they've heard it about 60 times on the radio. The dancers learn to dance to the music from the radio, and when something new is thrown at them the people can't readily dance to it."

"Watch," says Lenny as he opens a new album and places a record on the turntable. The music breaks in over the previous record and the dancers hesitate for a moment and drift to the edges of the dance floor. "See what I mean?" he says as he quickly puts a 'standard' on the turntable and brings the crowd back to the floor.

Lee Santarelli, a tall muscular man with curly black hair and a scar running down the center of his nose is, according to Lenny, the manager of the Shed. When asked, however, Santarelli would only say he was a "bouncer." Santarelli continually stalks through the club with a large flashlight in hand.

John Vanucci of the San Francisco Police Department's vice squad keeps an eye on the activity of the after hours clubs in the city. "The Shed has been no real problem, but the Mission station precinct has had problems and has attempted to revoke their permit to operate as a cabaret," he says.

Vanucci says the Shed was unique because the owners were able to obtain a hybrid permit that allows them to feature entertainment and operate as a cabaret (remain open between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.).

Cabaret permits were created in 1971 in an effort to better regulate the so-called "breakfast clubs" that were primarily located in the Tenderloin.

Lieutenant Thomas Dempsey of the permit bureau of the S.F.P.D. says the vice squad found that these breakfast clubs were selling liquor after 2 a.m. for prices ranging from \$25 to \$100 a pint.

Police investigation found that the women working in these clubs were being trained by professional pickpockets. Cab drivers got two dollars a person they brought in.

"We're against them, basically. They're meeting spots for the night people," he says.

Until it burned down a week ago, the I81 Club on Eddy Street was another type of cabaret club. Here women were hired to sit and drink with the customers.

Barbara F., 19, worked at the I81 Club for a few weeks last August. She was hired as a hostess to sit with customers and encourage the men to buy them drinks that were advertised as wine or champagne but were actually, according to her, ginger-ale and grape juice selling for more than three dollars a glass.

At first this seemed like an easy way to make money, but after a couple of weeks "other things" were being expected of her.

"Pimps began to hang around the place and try and talk the women into taking a customer home," she says. She decided to quit her job after this "pressure."

unclassifieds

Interested in belly dancing? Come to a meeting Oct. 27, Student Union B119, from 2-3.

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Grad student male needs place next to SFSU. Ask for Sid, 668-1348. Grad student male needs place next to SFSU. Ask for Sid, 668-1348.

Men's large 100% navy wool peacoat. Brand new. \$20. Steve, 584-9522.

Republicans for Ford will meet Thurs. 12-1 p.m. in Ed Bldg. Rm. 213 or call 647-2636 for info.

Workshop to explore career directions. "Who am I?" general goals. October 25, 12-1 p.m., Franciscan Bldg., upstairs. Sponsored by Counseling Center.

King size bed. \$75, excellent condition. Call 824-3555 Tues - Fri eves. (work phone). Ask for Laurie.

Somewhere over the rainbow...a pot of gold fulfills your heart by tutoring at Student Learning Center, 2nd floor library.

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10 gal. aquarium and dynaflo pump/filter. \$12.50. Dave, 756-6291 evenings.

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Rent: 2-bedroom Parkmerced apt. w/25 year-old man; 1½ blks from campus, lake; \$137.50. With garbage; woman preferred. Lease. 333-5169 or 549-3570.

Italian motor scooter (Lambretta 200cc.) Great fun! Easy on gas; no more parking problems. Compare with new!

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UNCLASSIFIED Ads are accepted free from all members of the college community (students, faculty and staff). The first 35 turned in before Friday, 5:00 p.m. will be published in the next issue. There is a 20-word maximum, with a limit of one ad per person per week.

ADVERTISING a service for money or ads for non-members of the college cost 10 (ten) cents per word, payable in advance, with a 20-word, or \$2.00, minimum.

ANY ADS without proper identification - I.D. number, name, phone number, etc., - will be rejected. No phone-in ads accepted.

Home on the gun range

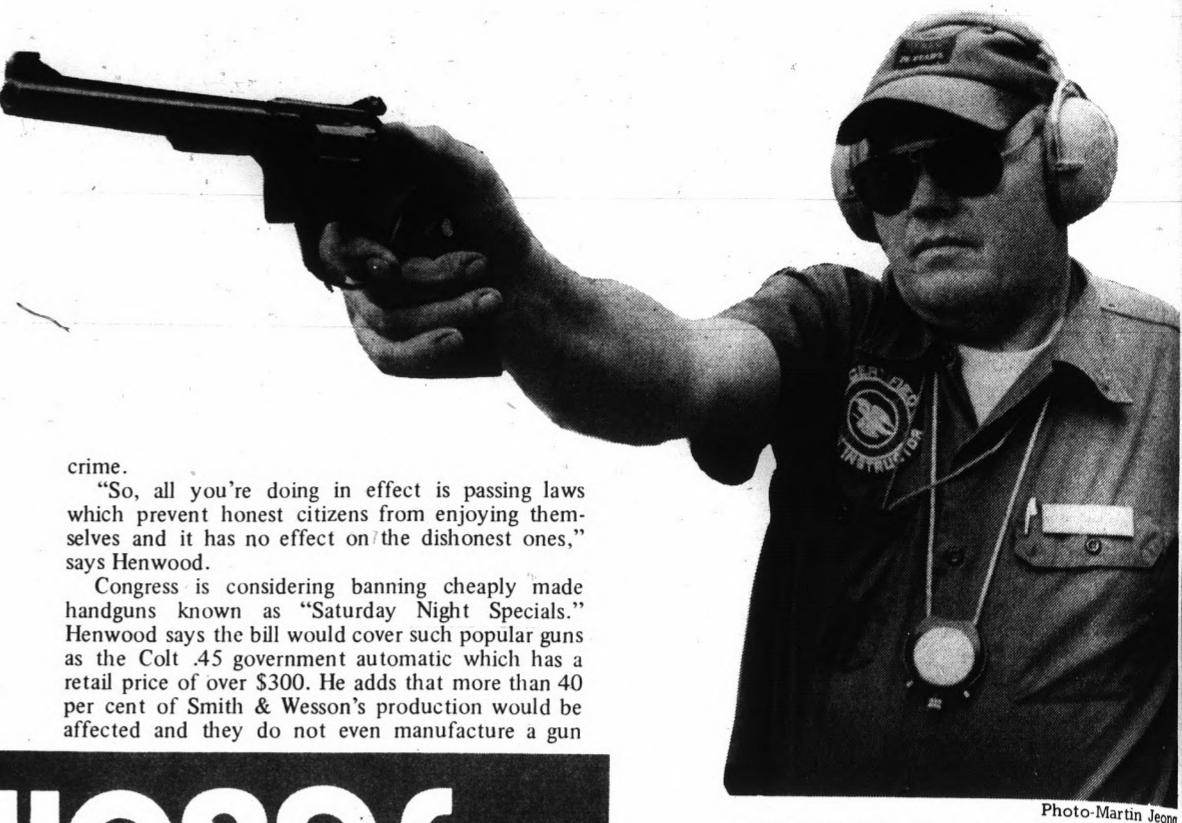


Photo-Martin Jeong

Chief Range Officer John Henwood

"The guy who owned a place up in the Maine woods and enjoyed shooting at birch trees with a submachine gun suddenly can't any more. He's not hurting anybody but he can't. A certain amount of his personal liberty has been whittled away."

"I have never known of a crook who wanted a submachine gun for some reason that couldn't find one easily enough. Usually they just walk into a police station and take it from them. Or they break into a National Guard armory and steal one. They don't buy them. God no, crooks don't buy guns. By definition they're law breakers," says Henwood.

One minute remaining. One minute.

Henwood has a disdain for "regulations" and finds many of the current firearm laws to be "silly." When he removes his .22 pistol from its holster he is careful to keep the muzzle up.

"It's just like a one-quarter-inch electric drill. All it does is punch holes. You can punch a hole in anything you want with a quarter-inch electric drill. You can do the same with a .38 Smith and Wesson. Guns don't kill people, people kill people," he says, pointing to the phrase on a cardboard sign that is cracked and yellowed with age.

"I haven't done anything wrong," says Henwood. "When I do something wrong, lock me up and throw away the key. Until then, get off my back."

BACKWARDS

Pistols are Henwood's favorite firearms. His wife and children also shoot. To Henwood, target practice is a sport that has been unjustly condemned.

"For many years the shooting fraternity has said, 'Be reasonable, compromise.' Every time we're reasonable and compromise we don't seem to gain any more but seem to lose something," he says.

Is the line ready? The line is ready. Load. Commandeering. Ten minute firing time.

In a few moments sharp rapid pops from handguns break the silence. Deafening blasts come from rifle fire.

"You show me one place, anywhere in the United States or anywhere in the world for that matter, where a gun law has prevented a crime."

"The states with the strictest gun laws, New York and Massachusetts, have about the highest crime rate. States with much more relaxed gun laws like Arizona have much lower crime rates."

"Statistically you can show anything you want from that. You can show that density has to do with crime or you can show that more restrictive gun laws have to do with crime. There seems to be no relationship between the severity of firearm laws and

under \$110.

"What you're saying then is that I have certain rights and privileges, but I only have them if I'm willing to spend a lot of money."

"What you're telling me then is that it's okay for me to go out and spend \$260 on a Smith & Wesson but it's not okay for me to go out and spend \$50 for an R.G. or a Rohm (both German imports)."

"What you're saying then is that it's not whether it's right or wrong, but it's how rich I am that determines," he says.

A young man walks up to the counter and pays his one-dollar fee for use of the range. Henwood tells him that his weapon, which retails for about \$114, would be banned under the proposed federal law.

"That's a Saturday Night Special?" the young man says, smiling in disbelief at his chrome-plated gun.

The Federal Firearms Act of 1934, says Henwood, was an infringement upon the shooters' rights.

"Under this act you can't own a sawed-off shotgun. Well okay, nobody would want a sawed-off shotgun. It's made it very difficult to own a submachine gun. Again, nobody wants a submachine gun. But it's been whittled away."

Riding the rails with boxcar bums

Mark Janowicz

The Southern Pacific train yard in Oakland was dark and quiet. Suddenly the roar of a diesel cut through the night. There was the heavy clang of metal against metal as two boxcars were cowpled. A beam of light stabbed along the tracks, setting a pair of rails aglow as the diesel backed away for other cars.

Hidden away in the shadows were a boy and an old man. The man, watching the diesel pull away, stood up and said, "You know what I think of the good life? It stinks, boy. I don't want any part of this organized deal." The man stabbed his hands into his pockets and began walking across the tracks where he would wait for the "Ghost Express," a late night train.

In their present oblivion as a minor folk hero, the hobos appear pathetically anachronistic, lacking power of any kind other than to stay on the road. Railroad officials will go so far as to claim they no longer exist.

The Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company reported recently, "Comparatively few hobos ride trains in this modern day. This is a rather minor duty of the Special Agents Department. Most of the people riding trains today are derelicts, alcoholics, and a very low class of the human race. To follow the harvests each year by train is a thing of the past."

Pounding across the deep South, around the rim of the Gulf of Mexico and along the Mexican border, a hotshot train is screaming across the horizon. There is only one "empty" on it, occupied by a group of transient workers, shiftless bums and college dropouts. The long metal capsule winds, day and night, between pine scrub and orange groves, cotton and rice fields where great birds feed, and endlessly through the billboards, pennant-frilled gas stations, scrapped car heaps and the hotel signscapes at the approach to every town. Wherever the tracks go, these nomads of the rails have a bumpy front seat to this swirl and flux of the American life.

Every hobo has his own tale to tell. During cross-country trips such as this one they are more than likely to go over their nomadic philosophy of life, or what led



to their downfall, or why you should stay away from the freight trains.

"I've been through most every city and town in this nation," says a grizzled black man, pulling out a tattered map of the United States. The train switches to a side track and stops to give a passenger train clearance.

"Miami to L.A., New York to Portland — I got all dem towns wired, babe. I'm a 'bo.'

The old traveler playfully rolls his eyes and moans, "Some towns can be mighty mean to a stranger blowing through." He says he is tired, but can't stop hopping trains — the only place he really feels at home. "I settle down sometimes, get a good job, a good woman . . ." His voice trails off.

The train jolts to a slow start and a fly buzzes through the hot, still air in the boxcar. Most of the hobos haven't been paying attention to his familiar lament: "Then I hear that lonely train whistle blowin', so I know I got the blues and I got to ride." He smiles and lies down on the swaying floor.

Another tramp begins to speak, telling how his wife died and his children left him and he's been on the bottle and the rails ever since. "Bo's are rough and tough, all right, but they're driftwood and jetsam too." His front teeth are missing, and his eyes are glazed —

mute testimony to the truth of his warning. "Stay away from railroads, go back to your home, before it's too late," he says, wagging his finger in the air. He then goes to urinate out of the moving boxcar door.

It is difficult to find a hobo who will command the life, but it is equally difficult to find one completely inoculated against it. There seems to be at some point a merging of the migratory man hunting for a job into a man for whom the maneuvers of hunting become more important than the objective.

Occasionally there are outright warnings, such as given by Cisco Houston, the late folksinger and unionizer, who was on the rails with Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly — names famous in hobo lore: "You